

Portsmouth School Committee Minutes

September 14, 2004

Public Session

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cassese at 7:28 PM. The following members were present:

Mr. Ralph Cassese, Chair

Mr. Terrence Kavanagh

Mr. Jack Taylor

Mr. James Seveney

Mrs. Karen Gleason

Mr. Duncan Ingraham

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was no Chairman's report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ryan reported that the opening of school went extremely well, and he gave a brief update on enrollment numbers.

A motion was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Seveney to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 24th and August

31st. So voted.

CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of Requests for Permission to Home School. A motion was made by Mr. Seveney and seconded by Ms. Gleason to approve the requests to provide home schooling for the 2004-05 school year for students HS#8 through HS#14-9/14/04, as listed in the confidential memo dated 9/8/04, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2. So voted 6-0.

BUSINESS AGENDA

a) Appt. – Asst. Supt. for Curriculum and Instruction. A motion was made by Mr. Seveney and seconded by Ms. Gleason to affirm the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-9/14/04, to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. So voted 6-0. Mr. Ryan announced the appointment of Mrs. Colleen Jermain to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

b) Request for Additional Grade 5 Teaching Position. A motion was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Seveney to approve the request for an additional Grade 5 teaching position at Portsmouth Middle School to meet the needs of in-creased student enrollment and contractual requirements. So voted 6-0.

c) Agenda Item Request – Discussion on Hiring of a New Superintendent. Mr. Kavanagh stated that he would like to begin the process of hiring a new superintendent. He suggested that the Committee go out to national search companies. A discuss took place regarding costs associated with advertising, etc. Mr. Ryan will provide detailed information at a future meeting.

d) Agenda Item Request – Discussion on Hiring Policy. Mr. Kavanagh suggested that the Policy Subcommittee reevaluate the hiring policy. Ms. Gleason scheduled a Policy Subcommittee meeting for Thursday, September 30th. Ms. Gleason suggested that some interview team members attend the meeting.

e) Agenda Item Request – Discussion on Evaluation of PMS Student Programs and Activities. Mary Beth Ethier requested this discussion and stated she is not concerned solely with the sports programs at Portsmouth Middle School. She suggested that the School Committee reallocate funding so that the programs and activities could be reinstated at PMS. Several PMS parents spoke on behalf of the programs and activities. Mr. Ingraham made a motion for Mr. Ryan to meet with the PMS group to work on finding a solution. It was seconded by Mr. Taylor. So voted 6-0.

f) Report on PHS SAT Scores. Mr. Littlefield reported on the 2003-04 SAT scores. Seventy-four percent of the class took the tests, and

they are the second highest scoring class in the history of Portsmouth High School. The mean scores are: Verbal 548, and Math 546. The scores are higher than both the state and national average. In October, PHS is participating in a program wherein the 11th grade students will take the PSAT free of charge.

g) Report on Staff Development Day. Mr. Ryan reported on the staff development activities that took place on August 30th and 31st.

h) Gymnasium Project Committee Report. Ms. Gleason reported that the Gymnasium Project Committee continues to move forward with Phase I. Committee members will be attending open houses and PTO meetings at the schools. They attended two local clambakes over the last weekend. The Committee will give a presentation to the Town Council on September 15th.

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. So voted. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield

Recording Secretary for

Karen Gleason, Clerk